

In conclusion, God bless our troops as the global war on terrorism continues. Trump is continuing to reinstitute peace through strength, revealing war criminal Putin lies, insulting and mocking Trump with war criminal Putin bombing churches to intimidate Ukrainians, but war criminal Putin is a loser as Ukrainians will achieve victory.

I congratulate Congressman NEAL DUNN on the birth of a granddaughter an hour ago, Nora Amelia Dunn. Grateful parents are David and Isabel Dunn of Phoenix, Arizona.

#### HUNGARIAN ELECTIONS

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the victory in the fight for liberty on the continent of Europe, our closest tested allies.

Earlier this month, the people of Hungary voted in record numbers to end the repressive rule of its former Russia-leaning Prime Minister.

As co-chair of the Congressional Hungarian Caucus, I cheered with Hungarian Americans and just was thrilled at the victory of liberty in Hungary in the person of its new Prime Minister Peter Magyar.

For 16 years, Hungarians endured a cadre of kleptocrats that plundered their country and sold it out to the interests of Russian dictator Vladimir Putin. Shocking tapes reveal how Orban's top officials plotted with Russia to undermine neighboring Ukraine and the rest of Europe and even help the Ayatollah in Iran.

The former Prime Minister's betrayal of the Hungarian people and the NATO Alliance is why Congressman DON BACON and I introduced the BLOCK PUTIN Act to hold these corrupt officials accountable.

Thank God the people of good will won in Hungary.

When Soviet Russia invaded the beautiful country in 1956, it took decades before they got a victory for democracy.

You have friends in America, our dear, dear friends in Hungary. We love liberty, too. Bravo. Onward.

#### HONORING THOMAS ELRED BRADFORD

(Mr. PALMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PALMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Thomas Elred Bradford, a man who truly embodied servant leadership.

A Birmingham native and graduate of Ramsay High School, Tom served in the United States Air Force after college before joining his family business.

After a successful career in business, instead of retiring, Tom founded the

National Christian Foundation of Alabama.

Tom was deeply committed to his faith and community, serving as an elder at Briarwood Presbyterian Church and in leadership roles in numerous civic, charitable, and Christ-centered organizations across Birmingham.

Most importantly, he was a devoted husband to Mary Anne and a loving father.

Tom was always searching for ways to invest in those around him, and I was fortunate enough to benefit from his mentorship. Tom gave me my first job in Birmingham, and years later when I came to him with the idea to start a profamily think tank, he agreed to serve as the founding board chairman of the Alabama Family Alliance, which later became the Alabama Policy Institute.

Tom was always a tremendous source of advice and godly counsel and became like a second father to me. Tom was truly a force for good. He will be missed.

#### CONGRATULATING PATRICIA GUERRA-FRAZIER

(Mrs. McIVER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. McIVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Patricia Guerra-Frazier for her appointment as mayor of Union Township in New Jersey's 10th Congressional District.

Mayor Frazier has made history, becoming the first Latina to hold this role. She has displayed her dedication to serving her community by focusing on improving the quality of life for Union residents.

Since being sworn in, she has focused on cultural investment, community parks, public safety, and development.

Mayor Frazier has also brought something very special to this role: her experience serving her community as a teacher for 23 years.

On behalf of New Jersey's 10th Congressional District, I congratulate our new mayor of Union Township, and I wish her all the best as she continues to serve Union.

□ 1950

#### HONORING LIFE AND LEGACY OF BERKS COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS JEFF BUCK AND ROBERT SHICK

(Mr. MEUSER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to honor the life and legacy of Berks County Fire Chiefs Jeff Buck and Robert Shick who tragically lost their lives in the line of duty.

On April 4, Walnuttown Fire Chief Jeff Buck and Assistant Chief Robert Shick were participating in a missing

person search when they were struck and killed by a man driving under the influence.

Chief Buck and Assistant Chief Shick served the Berks County community with distinction for many years. The outpouring of sorrow and support from the entire community reflects the respect and admiration held by all. Beyond their outstanding service to the community, Chief Buck and Assistant Chief Shick were also both dedicated family men.

I want to extend my deepest condolences and prayers to their surviving wives, children, and grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, this unspeakable tragedy highlights the dangers our first responders face every day. I know the entire Berks County community will never waver in their commitment to honor the legacy of these brave heroes, and I urge Congress to follow their example by never failing to support our first responders, firefighters, and police.

#### CHERRY POINT VISIT

(Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, I have seen firsthand what makes eastern North Carolina strong: our marines, our civilian workers, and our community and their commitment to being mission ready.

As the Air Station of the Year, with a 24/7 airfield operation, Cherry Point isn't just about national defense. It is about jobs, families, and the future of Havelock and our region.

The STARBASE program provides students with hands-on STEM experiences and real opportunities to learn and succeed. I am so proud to support \$40 million for the F-35 Aircraft Sustainment Center, strengthening our national security.

I thank our marines, their families, the Allies for Cherry Point's Tomorrow, and Mayor Will Lewis for an incredible visit. When we stand with our marines, we are also standing for eastern North Carolina.

#### HONORING GACKS' 102ND BIRTHDAY

(Mr. JACK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JACK. Mr. Speaker, I intended to address the House last Friday, on April 17, but our legislative calendar shifted, and the House was not the session.

As a result, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 102nd birthday of someone very special to me, my grandmother, whom my family affectionately refers to as Gacks.

My grandmother was born on April 17, 1924, in Des Moines, Iowa, and today she resides in Georgia, blessed with incredible health. At the early age of 102,

my grandmother still drives a car, shops at the grocery store, and attends a weekly exercise class with her friends.

I am my grandmother's only grandchild, which is notable because she will forever have a perfect record of having her grandchildren elected to Congress.

Since her 95th birthday, we have celebrated her birthday in very special ways. This year, my grandmother is watching at home with family as we wish her, from the floor of the United States House of Representatives, a very happy 102nd birthday.

#### REMEMBERING THE 31ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE OKLAHOMA BOMBING

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.)

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solemn remembrance of something that happened 31 years ago in Oklahoma City at the Federal building that we refer to as the Murrah Building when an act of unimaginable horror took place and the lives of 168 of our fellow Americans were taken in almost an instant.

That was one of those experiences that forever reshaped my community and my neighbors. It reshaped the country at the time, and that is what I and my colleagues rise this evening to discuss those 31 years ago and how our communities responded and where we went from there.

I was an 11-month Member of Congress at the time. My district office was 1½ blocks away from the Murrah Building, and the force and the magnitude of the explosion that day were so incredible that not only did it blow the interior out of the Murrah Building, leaving just a shell, but it also damaged buildings blocks away, literally creating chaos and confusion all over central Oklahoma City.

Sometimes, in the chaos of the modern world, we forget that we are Americans, we are Oklahomans, we are fellow human beings, and we rise to the occasion. That response, beginning almost instantly and covering hours, days, and weeks, reflected that Oklahoma standard, that Oklahoma way of doing things—but not just Oklahoma, our great Nation.

This evening for a little bit, we together will discuss the things that we have dealt with since then, things we observed in those moments, and how it made a real difference in the lives of the survivors and those who were so critically injured.

My friend, Congressman COLE, was Secretary of State in the State of Oklahoma, a central member of Governor Keating's cabinet. When the emergency response programs were activated, he was a part of the State's response to help local government in interacting with FEMA.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE).

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend from Oklahoma, my distinguished colleague and extraordinary leader in that moment, Mr. LUCAS, for yielding.

Like my friend, we don't need a lot of notes to talk about that day 31 years ago to the day yesterday. We remember what was the darkest day in Oklahoma history, the worst act of domestic terrorism ever performed on American soil.

My friend, Mr. LUCAS, as he said, was only 11 months in as a new Congressman representing that area, that district, and we are very lucky there was not a loss of life in his office, as close as they were to the disaster site. I had been in office less than 100 days working for our friend, Frank Keating.

I will never forget that day. I was walking into my office, and I could feel a little shudder. The capitol is about 2½ miles away from the disaster site. I sat down in my chair, and my secretary immediately walked into my office.

She said: Something terrible has happened in downtown Oklahoma City. Your wife—who was three blocks away working as a paralegal at the time—has just called and said that something terrible has happened. She is on the phone.

I got on the phone, and she described to me what she could see from the 18th floor of an office tower at a law firm three blocks away.

She said: I don't know what has occurred, but there has been a horrific explosion. There are hundreds of people in the street. People are screaming, and something awful has happened.

Immediately I walked upstairs to the Governor's office. Frank Keating was our new Governor at the time. He obviously had been in office less than 100 days, as well. If you walked into the Governor's office, Mr. Speaker, there is a press office immediately to your right. I looked to the right. I saw the Governor and his chief of staff, my good friend, Clinton Key.

They were watching the disaster as it unfolded because there were already helicopters flying over the disaster site, and one of the news commentators was speculating: Well, this was a natural gas explosion.

Frank Keating had been an FBI agent in the early part of his career as a law enforcement official and later an Associate Attorney General of the United States under President Reagan. He was looking at this. One of his first jobs as a young FBI officer in the 1960s had been to investigate acts of terrorism associated with the Vietnam war on the West Coast.

I will never ever forget him watching this. He said that is not a natural gas explosion. That is a car bomb, and it is probably some act of terrorism.

He knew immediately what we were dealing with. As we watched that horrific day unfold where we lost 168 lives,

I marveled every single day at the extraordinary leadership that Frank Keating and our first lady, Cathy Keating, showed for the State of Oklahoma. He not only knew what had happened, he knew instinctively what he needed to do.

We had an emergency meeting in the Governor's office. We decided there is always a debate in one of those things: Do you go to the site? Do you lead from the capitol?

Frank Keating said: You go to where the action is. I am going downtown and assign various tasks to the rest of us. Then he headed down.

□ 2000

I joined him later that day. He saw this horrific explosion that had taken 168 lives and injured hundreds and hundreds more people. We watched the unfolding relief effort.

As bad as the day was for Oklahoma, I don't think I ever was more proud of the State and, quite frankly, the country as it dealt with the tragedy unfolding in front of us in those opening hours on April 19, 1995.

Our first responders in Oklahoma City—police officers and the fire department—immediately sprang into action, immediately trying to get people out of the building, trying to contain the disaster. Over 300 buildings around the site had been heavily damaged.

They performed heroically and magnificently because, frankly, we thought at the time that there might be other bombs there and that there might be other explosions coming.

By about 11 o'clock that morning, we had the Governor back, and we convened at the capitol complex in Oklahoma City.

About 1 o'clock, we got a call from the President of the United States, Bill Clinton. Most people don't know this, but President Clinton and Governor Keating had gone to Georgetown University together. When the Governor was president of the senior class, then-sophomore class member Bill Clinton was president of the sophomore class. They knew one another extraordinarily well.

There was already lots of speculation that it might be terrorist activity directed from overseas. The President asked the Governor: Governor, do we have any earthly idea who did this? He said: No, Mr. President, we don't. You will hear a lot of speculation, but obviously, we don't know at this point who did this deed.

I will never forget the response of President Clinton, who said immediately: Well, I hope it is not a forerunner who did something like this.

I remember thinking: Well, gosh, how could you want it to be an American? The President said something very insightful. It actually came back to me when we as a country went through 9/11. He said: If this was done by somebody overseas, we will be at war someplace in the world in the next 6 months. He, too, knew immediately